[Translation]

Cement Corporation of India

3238. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nayagaon Unit of Cement Corporation of India had to be closed due to non-payment of different dues, such as electricity bills etc. during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of loss incurred due to closure; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to check such recurrence ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Nayagaon Cement Unit of Cement Corporation of India was not closed during the last year. However, the production activity in the Unit remained suspended for about 34 days during the year 1996 due to disconnection of electricity by the State Electricity Board on account of non-payment of electricity dues. The company could not make the payment due to liquidity problems.

(c) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has reported that there was a production loss of around 34000 tonnes of cement as a result of suspension of production activities at the unit.

(d) CCI has been referred to BIFR under the provisions of SICA and the Company has already submitted a draft revival package to the Operating Agency for consideration. The package, inter-alia, envisages installation of captive DG sets in various units of the company including Nayagaon Unit to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

[English]

Development of Handloom Sector

3239. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding the development of handloom varieties and strengthening marketing in Karnataka is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Based on the viable proposals received from Government of Karnataka, an amount of Rs.339.75 lakhs has been sanctioned till date during the current financial year under various handloom schemes.

Primary Capital Market

3240. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies and the quantum of funds raised in the primary capital market during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of companies and the quantum of funds lost based on market capitalisation in respect of these companies as on 31st December, 1996;

(c) whether such losses to investors could have been avoided or minimised if the instruments raising the funds were in the form of optionally convertible debentures;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for the companies raising the funds to issue term OCD allowing safe exit route to investor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) According to the data furnished by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) the information is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	No. of companies	Amount raised from the primary capital market.
1994-95	1692	27632.1
1995-96	1725	20803.7
1996-97 (Upto February, 1997)	864	13181.1

(b) SEBI has stated that according to available data, during the period between March 31,1996 and January 31,1997 there was a decline in the market capitalisation on Bombay Stock Exchange of Rs. 68,215 crores. However this cannot be viewed as a loss of funds.

(c) to (e) The choice of instrument through which the capital should be raised is decided by the issuer companies and their lead merchant bankers. The issuer companies plan their capital structure according to their needs. Thereafter, it is the option of the investors to subscribe or not to subscribe to particular instruments issued by the companies. It is not possible to quantity the impact on capitalisation of different choices by issuers of market instruments.

Setting up of Export Processing Zone

3241. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Export Processing Zones in the country, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the products being exported from Maharashtra, U.P. and Gujarat and the percentage of its contributions towards total exports;